



# MAFA News

## November/December 2019

**Please share this newsletter with your guild**

### President's Message

Autumn is in full swing. Crisp air, bright sunshine, harvest suppers, and fresh inspiration for color and texture in weaving, spinning and dyeing abound. Because I spent my career in education, Fall always signals new beginnings and possibilities to me.

This Fall I began serving as MAFA President, surrounded by a wonderful team. We look forward to working together to ensure that our organization continues on the successful path that the outgoing team set us. And as we recall the memories of the 2019 conference, this is a time to remind you that MAFA is dedicated to providing ongoing support to its member guilds in non-conference and conference years alike.

Our Grants committee is now reviewing applications and we are looking forward to learning about the plans member guilds have to expand awareness of fiber crafts in the larger community and to increase access to our accumulated knowledge and skill. We expect to announce awards in January.

Planning for the 2021 conference has already begun. We will be inviting potential conference instructors to submit proposals in December. Please share your suggestions for instructors by contacting our Conference Chair at [conference@mafafiber.org](mailto:conference@mafafiber.org).

We know there are other ways to help member guilds. In an effort to get feedback, we plan to survey member guilds later this year to learn how MAFA can serve you better. Please begin thinking about how MAFA can help you and your guild.

Have a joyous holiday season and continue to share the love of all things fiber.

Warm regards,  
*Helena Valentine, MAFA President*  
[president@mafafiber.org](mailto:president@mafafiber.org)

---

# Contents in This Issue

- Important Dates
  - Reps Assembly Minutes
  - Bringing Diversity to MAFA
  - Grants Committee News
  - New Social Media Coordinator
  - Conference Committee Volunteers Needed
  - Upcoming Guild Events
  - Textile Events in our Region
- 

## Important Dates

- November 1, 2019 - MAFA Grant application deadline
- 

## Reps Assembly Minutes

Minutes of the October 1, 2019 Reps Assembly, held by teleconference, are on the MAFA website, under the Reps Corner tab. [Download the minutes.](#)

---

## Bringing Diversity to MAFA

One of our goals within the next two years as MAFA leaders is to encourage and promote more diversity within MAFA. By diversity we mean to include people of different races, cultures, ages and genders. We feel that this inclusiveness will also help to sustain interest in the fiber arts in general.

In the coming months, we will be reaching out to the different guilds and to the guild representatives to see what they are doing to encourage diversity. We welcome all ideas and input.

I will start by sharing what worked for us at the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers (PGHW) (with a nod to MAFA and PGHW member Judy Donovan). The end results were a pleasant surprise.

We received the 2018 MAFA grant which gave us funding for the purchase of 6 rigid heddle looms in order to teach basic weaving to the public in the Philadelphia area. We felt strongly that rigid heddle looms were an enticing way to introduce people to try these unintimidating, less expensive, easy-to-manage looms and draw them into weaving.

PGHW has a very active outreach program and members taught at these events which included street festivals, historic events, community gatherings and schools. We also taught free classes at our guild.

The results were unexpectedly surprising and successful. The grant really created excitement in the Guild. Members volunteered to warp the looms for our workshops because it was a chance to learn a new skill. A mentally challenged member became our “warp mistress” and expertly kept our workshop looms dressed and now is a prolific rigid heddle weaver and enthusiastic participant in Guild activities. Another member who is physically challenged bought a loom because she found that it made weaving possible for her, and she joined the “teaching team” for our grant. Others donated yarns for our workshops. Due to popular demand, we even scheduled a class for our members to learn rigid heddle weaving.

Our initial goals were to promote weaving education, recruit new members and expand community partnerships. By the grant’s end we had taught 82 new students in 11 workshops, gained 9 new members, got 5 invitations from community groups to teach weaving this year and our Guild added a Rigid Heddle Special Interest Group that meets twice a month now because of member interest. Surveys from our workshops were 100% positive and interest in our Guild has expanded considerably. We continue with rigid heddle at Outreach events and new members join on a regular basis. These new members include young people, people of different races, cultures and gender orientations.

<https://mafafiber.org/grants/guild-grants/grant-awards/> is the link to the published report.

What is your group doing to expand the universe of fiber enthusiasts in your area? Tell us about it!

*Sara Robbins*

[firstvp@mafafiber.org](mailto:firstvp@mafafiber.org)

---

## Grants Committee News

### **Want to be more involved with MAFA?**

The Grants Committee is looking for new members and even its next Chair. Volunteers from throughout the MAFA region are appointed for two-year terms. Work is done by phone and email. Conference attendance not required. Details? Questions? Contact [grants@mafafiber.org](mailto:grants@mafafiber.org).

## **MAFA Grant applications are due by November 1 for the following year.**

### **Where to start?**

- Read the detailed guidelines and reporting requirements on the [MAFA Grants page](#).
- Read [reports](#) of successful grant projects. The reports include advice for future applicants planning similar projects.
- Download the latest versions of the [grants brochure](#) and [application preview](#). The online application form is available from Sept. 1st through Nov. 1st.

Questions? Contact [grants@mafafiber.org](mailto:grants@mafafiber.org).

---

## **New Social Media Coordinator**

I would like to introduce Jenny Sethman, who has volunteered to be the new MAFA Social Media Coordinator.

Jenny is a member of the Handweavers Guild of Connecticut, where she serves as the Social Media Chair and the MAFA affiliated Loyalhannon Spinners, located in Pennsylvania. Jenny is a multi-faceted fiber artists who spins, weaves, knits, felts, dyes and does Kumihimo braiding. She brings to MAFA her skills social media skills which include Ravelry, Weavolution, Facebook, and Instagram.

Jenny can be reached at [socialmedia@mafafiber.org](mailto:socialmedia@mafafiber.org)  
Welcome Jenny!

*Sara Robbins*  
[firstvp@mafafiber.org](mailto:firstvp@mafafiber.org)

---

## **Conference 2021 - Planning Committee - Help Needed!**

The planning committee for the MAFA 2021 conference is already at work! We would love to hear from guilds and members with suggestions for instructors to invite to submit proposals and ideas for keynote speakers and the conference theme. Please send suggestions by November 15, 2019 to [conference@mafafiber.org](mailto:conference@mafafiber.org).

We are also looking to fill a few key coordinator positions. We will encourage those coordinators to form subcommittees or line up assistants and helpers - we're not expecting a few people to do all the planning!

**Facilities Coordinator** - assist with selection of classrooms, coordinate instructor requirements with Millersville, work with signage coordinator for building and class signs. This person should be very organized, and be happy to work with spreadsheets.

**Events Coordinator** - coordinate among the various events throughout the conference to avoid schedule and location conflicts. Events include the keynote, MarketPlace events, networking, poster sessions, etc.. This person should be detail oriented and be a good communicator.

**Printing/Signage Coordinator** - oversee printing of totes, badge holders, water bottles, directories, outdoor and indoor signs.

**Website Assistant** - If you have WordPress 5+ skills and would like to help keep the conference info updated on the MAFA website, this position is for you.

**Assistant Coordinators** - We also have a number of assistant positions to help the coordinators for Volunteers, Exhibits, Vendors, and Events.

To find out more about the positions, or to get involved in planning the conference, email Margaret Briggs at [conference@mafafiber.org](mailto:conference@mafafiber.org).

---

## Upcoming Guild Events

**Let us help you publicize your guild exhibits, workshops, events and sales!** Visit the Guild Events listing on the website here: [mafafiber.org/events/](http://mafafiber.org/events/). Submit information on events, workshops, programs and sales for the website and newsletter by submitting the online form here: [mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/](http://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/). You may also email newsletter items to [firstvp@mafafiber.org](mailto:firstvp@mafafiber.org) before the 21st of even months for inclusion in the next MAFA News.

### **Jockey Hollow Weavers Guild 26th Annual Show & Sale**

November 9, 2019, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and November 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mendham, New Jersey. Textiles for the home, art to wear, fashion accessories and holiday gifts will be for sale, all handmade by the members of Jockey Hollow Weavers. Demonstrations and an exhibition of fiber arts will also be on view. Find details at [www.jockeyhollowweavers.org/sale.html](http://www.jockeyhollowweavers.org/sale.html).

**Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers Annual Holiday Sale.** November 14-17, 2019. All items are handmade by PGHW members. Do your holiday shopping early for linens, clothing, accessories, baskets and more. Give a unique and beautiful gift! For details go to <https://www.pghw.org>.

### **Knitting Latvian Fingerless Mitts & Cowichan Pullovers with Beth Brown-Reinsel.** December 7 & 8, 2019, Washington Spinners & Weavers Guild.

Latvian Fingerless Mitts - knit one of a pair of fingerless mitts to learn the following techniques which can be applied to mitten cuffs, sock tops or sleeves: a scalloped cuff, the herringbone braid and many subtle and beautiful variations of the half braid. Cowichan Pullovers - this class will cover stranding and weaving with colors (on the right side), reading a chart, putting stripes in ribbing (without color distortion) an unusual traditional shoulder join, creating a shawl collar shaped with short rows, and knitting sleeves from the top down while shaping the cap. \$125 each.

<https://washingtonspinningsandweavers.wordpress.com/>

**Exercises and Inspiration for the Color-Challenged by Daryl Lancaster.**

December 7, 2019, Shore Fiber Arts Guild.

Build color confidence no matter what your favorite fiber technique. We start with the basics of color and discuss inspiration from color forecasts, and online color tools. They can help stretch the imagination of anyone who is color challenged. Through a series of fun exercises, photos, and Color-aid papers we will group colors together, play with thrums and palettes, and create easy color references. And for handweavers, information on what to do when introducing a weft! Lots of inspiration and opportunity to just play. Workshop fee: \$45. Includes lunch. <http://shorefiberarts.org/>

**Deb Silver: Split Shed Tied Beiderwand Workshop.** March 29, 2020, New York Guild of Handweavers. This workshop will teach the basics of split-shed weaving using a variation of the tied beiderwand pattern. Workshop fee: Members: \$85 Non-members: \$95 <https://www.nyhandweavers.org>

---

## Textile News in Our Region

### Exhibits, Events & Online Fiber Arts

**Esther and the Dream of One Loving Human Family**

Through March 2024, AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM (AVAM), Baltimore, Maryland. Testimonial embroideries created by Holocaust survivor, Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. More info at [www.avam.org/](http://www.avam.org/).

**Domestic Matters: The Uncommon Apron**

August 31 - November 3, 2019, PETERS VALLEY SCHOOL OF CRAFT, Layton, New Jersey. More info at [petersvalley.org/html/gallery-exhibitions.cfm](http://petersvalley.org/html/gallery-exhibitions.cfm).

**Hitching Their Dreams to Untamed Stars: Joyce J Scott & Elizabeth Talford Scott** Through November 30, 2019, BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART, Baltimore, MD [www.artbma.org/exhibitions/hitching-their-dreams-to-untamed-stars](http://www.artbma.org/exhibitions/hitching-their-dreams-to-untamed-stars)

**Oaxaca Textiles and Folk Art Study Tour: Oaxaca Cultural Navigator**

January 31, 2020 through February 8, 2020, Oaxaca Centro Historico, Durham NC, [fiberartnow.net/events/oaxaca-textiles-and-folk-art-study-tour-oaxaca-cultural-navigator/](http://fiberartnow.net/events/oaxaca-textiles-and-folk-art-study-tour-oaxaca-cultural-navigator/)

**Frank Lloyd Wright Textiles: The Taliesin Line 1955-60**

Through April 5, 2020, METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, New York, NY [www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2019/frank-lloyd-wright-textiles](http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2019/frank-lloyd-wright-textiles)

**Off the Wall: American Art to Wear**

November 10, 2019 Through May 17, 2020, PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART, Philadelphia, PA, [press.philamuseum.org/off-the-wall-american-art-to-wear/](http://press.philamuseum.org/off-the-wall-american-art-to-wear/)

The **Hudson Valley Fiber Arts Network** is a listing directory, marketing & news resource to promote and celebrate the diversity & creativity of the fiber arts community

of the greater Hudson Valley region - from New York City to the Canadian border, along the I-87 and Hudson River corridor and surrounding areas. Find their events listings, and info at [www.hudsonvalleyfiberartsnetwork.com/](http://www.hudsonvalleyfiberartsnetwork.com/)

## Ongoing Exhibits

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery**, Alexandria, Virginia - Exhibits all forms of fiber work, including weaving, knitting, crocheting, sewing, surface design, and more, in 11 juried shows each year. More info at [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com/](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com/).

**Fabric Workshop and Museum**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - The museum's purpose is to stimulate experimentation among leading contemporary artists and to share the process of creating works of art with the public. They have various exhibits and a permanent collection, as well as studio facilities, equipment, and expert technicians on-site. Find more info at [fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/](http://fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/).

**Alling Coverlet Museum**, in Palmyra NY, has a collection of simple 4H to jacquard coverlets. [historicpalmyrany.com/alling.htm](http://historicpalmyrany.com/alling.htm)

---

## Need to Update Your Guild Info?

You may submit your **updated guild info** online using this simple form: [mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/](http://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/)

Please submit **guild events** here: [mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/](http://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/)

We would love for you to submit a **guild profile** here: [mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-profile-submission/](http://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-profile-submission/)

As always, you may send any event info or changes to your Reps, officers, or meeting dates/times to the MAFA Membership Chair at [membership@mafafiber.org](mailto:membership@mafafiber.org).

## MAFA Reps Groups.io Info

Guild representatives (Reps) officers, and program chairs: Join the "mafareps group" at [groups.io/g/mafareps](http://groups.io/g/mafareps). To join, click on "Apply for Membership in this Group", or email me for an invite at [membership@mafafiber.org](mailto:membership@mafafiber.org). We particularly want guilds to enter program, workshop and instructor info in our Programs & Workshops database here: [groups.io/g/mafareps/table?id=3297](http://groups.io/g/mafareps/table?id=3297).